

ON SATELLITES IN SEMI-ABELIAN CATEGORIES: HOMOLOGY WITHOUT PROJECTIVES

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ABSTRACT. Working in a semi-abelian context, we use Janelidze's theory of generalised satellites to study universal properties of the Everaert long exact homology sequence. This results in a new definition of homology which does not depend on the existence of projective objects. We explore the relations with other notions of homology, and thus prove a version of the higher Hopf formulae. We also work out some examples.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In his thesis [5], Everaert shows that, given the reflector $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ of a semi-abelian category \mathcal{A} with enough projectives to a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} , any short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow K[f] \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } f} B \xrightarrow{f} A \longrightarrow 0$$

in \mathcal{A} induces a long exact sequence in \mathcal{B} ,

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \longrightarrow H_{n+1}A &\xrightarrow{\delta_f^{n+1}} K[H_n(f, I_1)] \xrightarrow{\gamma_f^n} H_nB \xrightarrow{H_nf} H_nA \longrightarrow \cdots \\ \cdots \longrightarrow H_2A &\xrightarrow{\delta_f^2} K[H_1(f, I_1)] \xrightarrow{\gamma_f^1} H_1B \xrightarrow{H_1f} H_1A \longrightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the $H_nA = H_n(A, I)$ denote the homology of the object A with coefficients in I , but $H_n(f, I_1)$ is the homology of the extension f with coefficients in I_1 , the *centralisation functor* associated with I . This **Everaert sequence**—a kind of generalised long Stallings-Stammbach sequence—no longer satisfies the classical abelian-categories properties of a long exact homology sequence. For instance, it is not functorial in the objects of the given short exact sequence: $K[H_n(f, I_1)]$ need not be of the form $H_nK[f]$.

We use Janelidze’s theory of generalised satellites [16] to arrive at a better understanding of this sequence’s universal properties. Eventually this gives a way to compute homology using Kan extensions—as a limit—instead of basing it on higher Hopf formulae (as Everaert does) or simplicial resolutions (as, e.g., Barr and Beck do [1]). Thus we obtain a homology theory which also makes sense in a context where not enough projective objects are available. Our approach seems to be related to the work of Guitart and Van den Bril [14, 13] on homology using Kan extensions.

1a. Semi-abelian homology, Barr-Beck style. In this paper, as in [5, 6, 7, 9] and others, *semi-abelian homology* studies the following classical situation. \mathcal{A} is a semi-abelian category [19] (say, the category \mathbf{Gp} of groups or $\mathbf{Lie}_{\mathbb{K}}$ of Lie algebras over a field \mathbb{K} or \mathbf{PXMod} of precrossed modules) and \mathcal{B} a Birkhoff subcategory of \mathcal{A} (the category \mathbf{Ab} of abelian groups or $\mathbf{AbLie}_{\mathbb{K}}$ of abelian Lie algebras over \mathbb{K} or \mathbf{XMod} of crossed modules). Since the reflector $I: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is not an exact functor, one is interested in its derived functors, as they capture some interesting homological information: integral homology of groups or homology of Lie algebras or of crossed modules.

A **Birkhoff subcategory** \mathcal{B} of a Barr-exact category \mathcal{A} is a full reflective subcategory which is closed under subobjects and regular quotients [18]. For instance, a Birkhoff subcategory of a semi-abelian variety of universal algebras is the same as a subvariety. When \mathcal{A} is a semi-abelian monadic category (e.g., a semi-abelian variety; see [11] for a precise characterisation), canonical regular-projective simplicial resolutions exist in \mathcal{A} , and we obtain the following Barr-Beck style [1] notion of homology [9]: for any object A of \mathcal{A} and any $n \geq 0$,

$$H_{n+1}(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}} = H_n N I \mathbb{G} A, \quad (\mathbf{A})$$

where $I: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is the reflector, $\mathbb{G}A$ is the simplicial resolution of A obtained via the canonical forgetful/free comonad \mathbb{G} on \mathcal{A} , and $N: \mathcal{SB} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ch}\mathcal{B}$ is the **Moore normalisation functor** which sends a simplicial object in \mathcal{B} to its normalised chain complex. Note the dimension shift in (\mathbf{A}) ; it is there for historical reasons: this is how, for example, homology of groups is numbered classically.

1b. Higher central extensions and the Hopf formulae. It turns out that in the study of these homology objects, the concept of *higher central extension* is fundamental. In [7], explicit Hopf formulae are proven which completely describe the $H_{n+1}(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}}$ in terms of centralisation of higher extensions. The most compact way to express their meaning seems to be that *the $(n+1)$ -st homology of A measures the difference between the centralisation and the trivialisation of an n -fold presentation of A* . Indeed, according to [6], the Hopf formula of [7, Theorem 8.1] may be written as an isomorphism

$$H_{n+1}(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}} \cong K^{n+1}[I_n p \rightarrow T_n p]$$

where p is an n -fold presentation of A and $n \geq 1$. The notions of central and trivial extension and the meaning of all ingredients of this formula will be explained in Section 2.

1c. The Hopf formulae as a definition of homology. This idea—to explain homology objects in terms of higher-dimensional central and trivial extensions—is further pursued by Everaert in [5] and [6], where he works out a new notion of homology based on the right hand side of the Hopf formula isomorphism: there *by*

definition, $H_{n+1}(A, I) = K^{n+1}[I_n p \longrightarrow T_n p]$, for $n \geq 1$ and any n -fold presentation p of A . Note how the comonad \mathbb{G} is dropped from the notation. In fact, as explained in [6], this approach, using higher presentations of an object, is much closer to Hopf's original insights than the use of simplicial resolutions. When the underlying category \mathcal{A} is semi-abelian and monadic, the higher Hopf formulae become $H_{n+1}(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}} \cong H_{n+1}(A, I)$, the equivalence between the two notions of homology. But Everaert's theory works as soon as \mathcal{A} is semi-abelian with enough projectives, while it is still powerful enough to obtain interesting results: no monadicity condition on \mathcal{A} is needed to obtain, say, a long exact homology sequence.

1d. A third approach: homology via satellites. It turns out that the universal properties of the Everaert homology sequence completely determine an underlying homology theory, and these universal properties may be taken as a new definition of homology. The advantage of such an approach is that the existence of projective objects is no longer fundamental, and new homological techniques are obtained. This is the subject of the present paper.

Our theory is based on Janelidze's general notion of *satellites* [16], which give a way to compute homology objects step by step: the $(n+1)$ -st homology H_{n+1} is obtained out of H_n as a Kan extension. This makes it possible to define homology using limits alone. But when the surrounding category has enough projectives, the resulting notion is still equivalent to Everaert's—an equivalence which may be interpreted as a version of the higher Hopf formulae valid in this context.

1e. Structure of the text. In Section 2 we briefly sketch some of the basic definitions and properties used throughout the text. Section 3 is devoted to the definition of satellites and the proof that the homology objects in the sense of 1c (and hence also in the sense of 1a) are satellites. The main results here are Proposition 3.7 (which gives $H_{n+1}(-, I)$ as a satellite of $H_n(-, I_1)$) and Theorem 3.10 (which gives $H_{n+1}(-, I)$ as a satellite of I_n). In Section 4 satellites are used to define homology. In Section 5 the consequences of this definition are explored in the situation where enough projective objects do exist. In that case, homology can be calculated in a new way, as the limit of a certain small diagram involving a projective presentation.

2. PRELIMINARIES

2a. Semi-abelian categories. First of all, we shall not limit ourselves to **semi-abelian** categories (which are pointed, Barr exact and Bourn protomodular with binary coproducts [19, 3]) but choose *pointed exact protomodular* categories as the basic context. All constructions we borrow from [7] and [5] and which take place in a semi-abelian category still work in pointed exact protomodular ones—though they need not have coproducts, these categories still have cokernels of kernels (see [3, Corollary 4.1.3]). Since the rest of our theory also does not need coproducts, it seems unnecessary to require their existence.

2b. Higher-dimensional arrows. We are interested in the chain of inclusions of full subcategories

$$\mathrm{Arr}^k \mathcal{A} \supset \mathrm{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \supset \mathrm{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k \mathcal{A} \supset \mathrm{TExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k \mathcal{A}$$

where $k \geq 1$, \mathcal{A} is a pointed exact protomodular category and \mathcal{B} a Birkhoff subcategory of \mathcal{A} . The category $\mathrm{Arr}^k \mathcal{A}$ consists of **k -dimensional arrows** in \mathcal{A} :

$\text{Arr}^0\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}$, $\text{Arr}^1\mathcal{A} = \text{Arr}\mathcal{A}$ is the category of arrows $\text{Fun}(2, \mathcal{A})$ where 2 is generated by a single map $\emptyset \longrightarrow \{\emptyset\}$, and $\text{Arr}^{k+1}\mathcal{A} = \text{Arr}\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$. Thus a **double arrow** is a commutative square in \mathcal{A} , a 3-arrow is a commutative cube, and a k -arrow is a commutative k -cube. Clearly, $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$ is also pointed exact protomodular. The functor $\ker: \text{Arr}^{k+1}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$ maps a $(k+1)$ -arrow a to its kernel $K[a]$, and a morphism (f', f) between $(k+1)$ -arrows b and a to the induced morphism between their kernels.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K[b] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } b} & B' & \xrightarrow{b} & B \\ \ker(f', f) \downarrow & & \downarrow f' & \Downarrow & \downarrow f \\ K[a] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } a} & A' & \xrightarrow{a} & A \end{array}$$

Repeating it n times gives a functor $\ker^n: \text{Arr}^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$ which sends a $(k+n)$ -arrow a to the object $K^n[a]$ of $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$.

2c. Extensions. A **0-extension** in \mathcal{A} is an object of \mathcal{A} and a **1-extension** is a regular epimorphism in \mathcal{A} . For $k \geq 2$, a **k -extension** is an object (f', f) of $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$ such that all arrows in the induced diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B' & \xrightarrow{f'} & A' \\ \downarrow b & \searrow \text{dotted} & \downarrow a \\ P & \xrightarrow{\text{dotted}} & A' \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \downarrow \\ B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \end{array} \quad (\text{B})$$

are $(k-1)$ -extensions. Here P is the pullback of a and f . The k -extensions determine a full subcategory $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$ of $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$. A 2-extension is better known as a **double extension**, and $\text{Ext}\mathcal{A} = \text{Ext}^1\mathcal{A}$. When we say that a sequence is exact in $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$, we mean that it is an exact sequence in $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$, and the objects are k -extensions. Given a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow K[f] \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } f} B \xrightarrow{f} A \longrightarrow 0 \quad (\text{C})$$

in $\text{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$, all three objects are k -extensions if and only if the map f is a $(k+1)$ -extension, by [7, Proposition 3.9].

Roughly, the idea behind this definition of k -extensions is the following: suppose we are given a double extension (f', f) of an object A of \mathcal{A} as in Diagram (B), and let α be any element of A . Then in addition to the existence of elements β of B and α' of A' such that $f(\beta) = \alpha$ and $a(\alpha') = \alpha$, there is also an element $\beta' \in B'$ such that $b(\beta') = \beta$ and $f'(\beta') = \alpha'$, whichever β and α' were chosen.

2d. The Galois structures Γ_k . A Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of a pointed exact protomodular category \mathcal{A} together with its reflector $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and the classes of extensions in \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} forms a **Galois structure** in the sense of Janelidze [17]. With respect to this Galois structure Γ_0 , there is a notion of **central extension** such that the full subcategory $\text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}$ of $\text{Ext}\mathcal{A}$ determined by the central extensions is again reflective. Its reflector $I_1: \text{Ext}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}$, together with the classes of

extensions in $\text{Ext}\mathcal{A}$ and in $\text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}$ (i.e., double extensions in \mathcal{A} , and double extensions with central domain and codomain), in turn determines a Galois structure Γ_1 . Inductively, this defines a family of Galois structures $(\Gamma_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, each of which gives rise to a notion of central extension which determines the next structure. (See Subsection 2e and [5, 6, 7] for more details.) In particular, for every $k \geq 1$ we obtain a reflector

$$I_k: \text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k\mathcal{A},$$

left adjoint to the inclusion $\text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k\mathcal{A} \subset \text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$.

2e. The reflectors I_k . We will not spend too much time in this paper explaining the Galois structures Γ_k in detail, but only sketch the construction of the reflectors $I_k: \text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k\mathcal{A}$. We can view the reflector $I = I_0$ as a functor $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$. Let $\eta: 1_{\mathcal{A}} \rightrightarrows I$ be the unit of the adjunction associated with I . Then we have another functor $J: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$, given by $JA = K[\eta_A]$, which fits into the following short exact sequence of functors.

$$0 \longrightarrow J \xrightarrow{\mu} 1_{\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\eta} I \longrightarrow 0$$

From this, we build a similar short exact sequence of functors $\text{Ext}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}\mathcal{A}$ as follows. (The construction is made pointwise in $\text{Arr}\mathcal{A}$, which has good categorical properties, but the result turns out to be an extension.) Consider an extension $f: B \longrightarrow A$ and its kernel pair (π_1, π_2) . Write $J_1[f] = K[J\pi_1]$ and $J_1f: J_1[f] \longrightarrow 0$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} J_1[f] = K[J\pi_1] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } J\pi_1} & JR[f] & \xrightarrow[\text{Ker } J\pi_2]{J\pi_1} & JB \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \mu_R[f] & & \downarrow \mu_B \\ K[f] = K[\pi_1] & \xrightarrow[\text{Ker } \pi_1]{} & R[f] & \xrightarrow[\pi_2]{\pi_1} & B \end{array}$$

This clearly determines a functor $J_1: \text{Ext}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}\mathcal{A}$. Note that $\pi_2 \circ \text{Ker } \pi_1 = \text{Ker } f$, and the left hand square is a pullback. We define the map $\mu_f^1: J_1f \longrightarrow f$ as in the left hand square below.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} J_1[f] & \xrightarrow{\mu_B \circ J\pi_2 \circ \text{Ker } J\pi_1} & B \\ J_1f \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\mu_f^1} & \downarrow f \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{\rho_f^1} & I_1[f] \\ f \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\eta_f^1} & \downarrow I_1f \\ A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \end{array}$$

Note that the composition $\mu_B \circ J\pi_2 \circ \text{Ker } J\pi_1$ is a normal monomorphism, so we can take cokernels, yielding the right hand square. Since μ_f^1 is the kernel of its cokernel, we obtain the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow J_1 \xrightarrow{\mu^1} 1_{\text{Ext}\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\eta^1} I_1 \longrightarrow 0$$

of functors $\text{Ext}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}\mathcal{A}$. This process may be repeated inductively to obtain the functors J_k and I_k from $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$ to $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$. For $k \geq 1$ and a k -extension f , we often call the extension $I_k f$ the **centralisation of f** .

Remark 2.1. Given a k -extension A , for $k \geq 0$, the centralisation of the $(k+1)$ -extension $!_A: A \longrightarrow 0$ turns out to be $I_{k+1}!_A: I_k A \longrightarrow 0$.

The following is also often useful, and quite easy to show using the 3×3 -Lemma and the strong (extension)-Birkhoff property [7, Definition 2.5] satisfied by the category of central k -extensions (see [7, Lemma 4.3]).

Lemma 2.2. [7, Lemma 6.2] *For a $(k+1)$ -extension $f: B \rightarrow A$, we have*

$$I_k I_{k+1} f = I_k f: I_k B \rightarrow I_k A,$$

i.e., $I_k(I_{k+1}[f]) = I_k B$. \square

Remark 2.3. Given any k -extension f , the only object of $J_k f$ which is non-zero is $\text{dom}^k J_k f$, the “initial” object of the k -cube $J_k f$. This follows easily from the inductive construction of $J_k f$. Thus we have $\text{dom}^k J_k f = K^k[J_k f]$ for any k -extension f .

2f. Trivial extensions. A *trivial extension* is a special kind of central extension: a $(k+1)$ -extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ is **trivial** (with respect to the Galois structure Γ_k) when it is the pullback of its reflection $I_k f: I_k B \rightarrow I_k A$ into $\text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k \mathcal{A}$ along the unit $\eta_A^k: A \rightarrow I_k A$ at A of the reflector I_k . The trivial $(k+1)$ -extensions of \mathcal{A} form a reflective subcategory $\text{TExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ of $\text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$; the reflector

$$T_{k+1}: \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{TExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$$

maps an extension f to the pullback $T_{k+1} f: T_{k+1}[f] \rightarrow A$ of $I_k f$ along η_A^k , the **trivialisation** of f .

(D)

Thus we obtain a comparison map $r_f^{k+1}: I_{k+1}[f] \rightarrow T_{k+1}[f]$, which is a $(k+1)$ -extension by the strong (extension)-Birkhoff property [7, Definition 2.5] of the reflector I_k and [7, Lemma 3.8]. This gives a $(k+2)$ -extension $I_{k+1} f \rightarrow T_{k+1} f$.

Remark 2.4. The Galois-theoretic definition of a central extension [17] says that an extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ is central if and only if there is an extension $g: \overline{A} \rightarrow A$ such that the pullback $\overline{f}: \overline{B} \rightarrow \overline{A}$ of f along g is a trivial extension.

2g. Projective presentations. An object of $\text{Arr}^k \mathcal{A}$ is **extension-projective** if it is projective with respect to the class of $(k+1)$ -extensions. A $(k+1)$ -extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ is called a **(projective) presentation** of A when the object B is extension-projective. A $(k+n)$ -extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ is called an **n -fold presentation**, or just **n -presentation**, when the object B is extension-projective and A is an $(n-1)$ -presentation. (A 1-presentation is just a projective presentation as above.) Given an object A of $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$, a **n -fold presentation p of A** is an n -fold presentation with $\text{cod}^n p = A$ —the “terminal object” of the n -cube p in $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ is A .

2h. Key results. Now we have provided definitions for all elements of the Hopf formula—the isomorphism

$$H_{n+1}(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}} \cong K^{n+1}[I_n p \longrightarrow T_n p],$$

valid for any n -fold presentation p of A and any $n \geq 1$ [6, 7]. The crucial point here is that the information in the higher homology objects is entirely contained in higher-dimensional versions $I_k: \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{CExt}_{\mathcal{B}}^k \mathcal{A}$ of the reflector $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$. In this section and in Section 3, we use homology *defined* via the Hopf formulae, as in Section 1c: for any k -extension A and an n -fold presentation p of A , we define

$$H_{n+1}(A, I_k) = K^{n+1}[I_{k+n} p \longrightarrow T_{k+n} p].$$

Remark 2.5. Notice that in [5, 7], the Hopf formula has the form

$$\frac{J_k P_n \cap K^n[p]}{K^n[J_{n+k} p]},$$

where P_n is the “initial” k -extension in the n -cube representing p , and $K^n[p] = \bigcap_{i=0}^n K[p_i]$ is the intersection of all maps p_i with domain P_n in p . Everaert shows in [6, Remark 5.12] that this is indeed equivalent to the form we are using.

Theorem 2.6. [5, Theorem 2.4.2] *For any $k \geq 0$, any short exact sequence (\mathbf{C}) in $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ induces a long exact homology sequence*

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots &\longrightarrow H_{n+1}(A, I_k) \xrightarrow{\delta_f^{n+1}} K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})] \xrightarrow{\gamma_f^n} H_n(B, I_k) \xrightarrow{H_n(f, I_k)} H_n(A, I_k) \longrightarrow \cdots \\ \cdots &\longrightarrow H_2(A, I_k) \xrightarrow{\delta_f^2} K[H_1(f, I_{k+1})] \xrightarrow{\gamma_f^1} H_1(B, I_k) \xrightarrow{H_1(f, I_k)} H_1(A, I_k) \longrightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (\mathbf{E})$$

in $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$.

Proof. A proof of this theorem in its full generality is given in [5]. However, when we restrict ourselves to the monadic case it becomes relatively easy to understand why the sequence takes this shape. So suppose that \mathcal{A} is a semi-abelian monadic category and \mathbb{G} the induced comonad on $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$. This comonad produces canonical simplicial resolutions $\mathbb{G}A$ and $\mathbb{G}B$ of A and B and, by functoriality, also a simplicial resolution $\mathbb{G}f$ of f . The Everaert Sequence (\mathbf{E}) is the long exact homology sequence (see [9, Corollary 5.7]) obtained from the short exact sequence of simplicial objects

$$0 \longrightarrow K[I_k \mathbb{G}f] \rightrightarrows I_k \mathbb{G}B \xrightarrow{I_k \mathbb{G}f} I_k \mathbb{G}A \longrightarrow 0;$$

it remains to be shown that $H_{n-1}K[I_k \mathbb{G}f] = K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})]$ for all $n \geq 1$. (Remember the dimension shift in Equation (\mathbf{A}) .) Now degree-wise, the $(k+1)$ -extension

$$I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f: I_{k+1}[\mathbb{G}f] \longrightarrow \mathbb{G}A$$

is a split epimorphic central extension: it is a centralisation, and $\mathbb{G}A$ is degree-wise projective. Via [7, Proposition 4.5], this implies that, degree-wise, it is a trivial extension. This means that $I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f$ is the pullback of $I_k \mathbb{G}f$ along the unit $\eta_{\mathbb{G}A}^k: \mathbb{G}A \longrightarrow I_k \mathbb{G}A$, which in turn implies that $K[I_k \mathbb{G}f]$ is the kernel $K[I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f]$ of $I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f$. Since, $\mathbb{G}A$ being a simplicial resolution, $H_n \mathbb{G}A = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$, the long exact homology sequence induced by the short exact sequence of simplicial objects

$$0 \longrightarrow K[I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f] \rightrightarrows I_{k+1}[\mathbb{G}f] \xrightarrow{I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f} \mathbb{G}A \longrightarrow 0$$

gives the needed isomorphism $H_{n-1}K[I_{k+1} \mathbb{G}f] \cong K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})]$. \square

Note that in [5], this sequence has a slightly different appearance: there it contains the objects $\text{dom } H_n(f, I_{k+1})$ instead of $K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})]$ for $n \geq 2$. But the codomain of $H_n(f, I_{k+1})$ is zero (because a k -extension $J_k f$ is only non-zero in the very top corner of the k -cube representing $J_k f$, hence I_k only changes the very top object of a k -extension), so its domain coincides with its kernel. For us, the sequence in its present, more uniform, shape will be easier to work with.

Corollary 2.7. (cf. [7, Theorem 6.4]) *For any $n \geq 2$, $k \geq 0$ and any projective presentation $p: P \longrightarrow A$ of a k -extension A ,*

$$K[H_n(p, I_{k+1})] \cong H_{n+1}(A, I_k).$$

Proof. It suffices to note that in the Everaert Sequence **(E)**, all $H_{n+1}(P, I_k)$ are zero, because P is projective. \square

This shows how the degree of the homology may be lowered from $n + 1$ to n by raising the degree of the reflector from k to $k + 1$.

3. SATELLITES AND HOMOLOGY

This section gives an analysis of homology in terms of satellites. Again we mean homology as defined in Section 1c. We start by stating the main definitions. Then, in Subsection 3b, we interpret $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ (together with the connecting map δ^{n+1}) as a satellite of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$. In Subsection 3c we prove the main theorem of this section: a formula which gives H_{n+1} in terms of I_n . Finally in Subsection 3d we explain how the situation is entirely symmetric, in that the connecting map γ^n also arises as a pointwise satellite.

3a. Satellites and pointwise satellites. Modulo a minor terminological change, the following definition is due to Janelidze.

Definition 3.1. [16, Definition 2] Let $I': \mathcal{A}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}'$ be a functor. A **left satellite** (H, δ) of I' (relative to $F: \mathcal{A}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ and $G: \mathcal{B}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$) is a functor $H: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ together with a natural transformation $\delta: HF \Longrightarrow GI'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{A}' & \\ F \swarrow & & \searrow I' \\ \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \mathcal{B}' \\ H \swarrow & & \searrow G \\ & \mathcal{B} & \end{array}$$

universal amongst such, i.e., if there is another functor $L: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ with a natural transformation $\lambda: LF \Longrightarrow GI'$, then there is a unique natural transformation $\mu: L \Longrightarrow H$ satisfying $\delta \circ \mu_F = \lambda$. This means that (H, δ) is the right Kan extension $\text{Ran}_F GI'$ of the functor GI' along $F: \mathcal{A}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$.

This makes it possible to compute derived functors in quite diverse situations. The following example, borrowed from [16], explains how satellites may be used to capture homology in the classical abelian case.

Example 3.2. In the abelian context, the $(n + 1)$ -st homology functor H_{n+1} may be seen as a left satellite of H_n . For instance, let $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}'$ and \mathcal{B} be categories of

modules and $G: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ an additive functor. Then $G = H_0(-, G)$. Let $\text{SESeq}\mathcal{A}$ be the category of short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow K \xrightarrow{k} B \xrightarrow{f} A \longrightarrow 0$$

in \mathcal{A} , the functor $I': \text{SESeq}\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ the projection pr_1 that maps a sequence (k, f) to the object K , and $F: \text{SESeq}\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ the projection pr_3 that maps (k, f) to A . Let $H: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be the first homology functor $H_1(-, G)$. We obtain a satellite diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{SESeq}\mathcal{A} & \\ \text{pr}_3 \swarrow & & \searrow \text{pr}_1 \\ \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \mathcal{A} \\ \text{H}_1(-, G) \searrow & & \swarrow \text{H}_0(-, G) \\ & \mathcal{B} & \end{array}$$

where the natural transformation $\delta = (\delta_{(k,f)})_{(k,f) \in |\text{SESeq}\mathcal{A}|}$ consists of the connecting maps from the (classical) long exact homology sequence

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H_1 K \xrightarrow{H_1 k} H_1 B \xrightarrow{H_1 f} H_1 A \xrightarrow{\delta_{(k,f)}} H_0 K \xrightarrow{H_0 k} H_0 B \xrightarrow{H_0 f} H_0 A \longrightarrow 0.$$

The universality of the Kan extension follows from the universality of the long exact homology sequence amongst similar sequences and may for instance be shown as follows. Given any functor $L: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and any natural transformation

$$\lambda: L \circ \text{pr}_3 \Rightarrow H_0(-, G) \circ \text{pr}_1,$$

we will construct the component at an object $A \in |\mathcal{A}|$ of the needed natural transformation

$$L \Rightarrow H_1(-, G)$$

by using a projective presentation $p: P \rightarrow A$ of A . Let $k: K \rightarrow P$ be the kernel of this projective presentation of A . Since $H_1 P$ is zero (as P is projective), the exactness of the long homology sequence induced by (k, p) says that $\delta_{(k,p)}: H_1 A \rightarrow H_0 K$ is the kernel of $H_0 k$. Then the string of equalities

$$H_0 k \circ \lambda_{(k,p)} \stackrel{(1)}{=} \lambda_{(1_P, !_P)} \circ L!_A \stackrel{(2)}{=} H_0(i_P) \circ \lambda_{(1_0, 1_0)} \circ L!_A \stackrel{(3)}{=} 0$$

yields the needed factorisation $LA \rightarrow H_1 A$: (1) expresses the naturality of λ at the upper, downward-pointing morphism of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K & \xrightarrow{k} & P & \xrightarrow{p} & A \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow k & & \Downarrow 1_P & & \downarrow !_A \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & P & \xrightarrow{1_P} & P & \xrightarrow{!_P} & 0 \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \uparrow i_P & & \uparrow i_P & & \uparrow 1_0 \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \xrightarrow{1_0} & 0 & \xrightarrow{1_0} & 0 \longrightarrow 0 \end{array} \quad (\mathbf{F})$$

in $\text{SESeq}\mathcal{A}$, while (2) follows from $\lambda_{(1_P, !_P)} = \lambda_{(1_P, !_P)} \circ L1_0 = H_0(i_P) \circ \lambda_{(1_0, 1_0)}$, which is the naturality of λ at the lower, upward-pointing morphism; the last equality (3) holds because $H_0 0 = 0$.

Note that, as such, this example does *not* follow the terminology of Definition 3.1. From its point of view one is tempted to call H a left satellite of G (rather than a satellite of I'), and actually this is how the definition appears in the paper [16]. But the situation we shall be considering in this paper demands the change in terminology, and the present example may easily be modified to comply with Definition 3.1.

Indeed, the functor G may be lifted to a functor

$$\mathrm{SSeq}H_0(-, G): \mathrm{SESeq}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathrm{SSeq}\mathcal{B}$$

where the latter category consists of short (not necessarily exact) sequences in \mathcal{B} . Together with the obvious projection $\mathrm{pr}_1: \mathrm{SSeq}\mathcal{B} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ (such that $H_0(-, G) \circ \mathrm{pr}_1 = \mathrm{pr}_1 \circ \mathrm{SSeq}H_0(-, G)$), this gives us the satellite diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathrm{SESeq}\mathcal{A} & \\ \mathrm{pr}_3 \swarrow & & \searrow \mathrm{SSeq}H_0(-, G) \\ \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \mathrm{SSeq}\mathcal{B} \\ \mathrm{pr}_1 \swarrow & & \searrow H_1(-, G) \\ & \mathcal{B} & \end{array}$$

Whereas such a viewpoint may seem rather far-fetched in the abelian case, it is the only one still available when the context is widened to semi-abelian categories.

In practice, satellites may almost always be computed explicitly using limits—namely, as pointwise Kan extensions. Then the definition given above is strengthened as follows.

Notation 3.3. Let A be an object of \mathcal{A} . We denote by $(A \downarrow F)$ the category of elements of the functor $\mathrm{Hom}(A, F-): \mathcal{A}' \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$: its objects are pairs $(A', \alpha: A \longrightarrow FA')$, where A' is an object of \mathcal{A}' and α is a morphism in \mathcal{A} , and its morphisms are defined in the obvious way (cf. [2, Theorem 3.7.2]). The forgetful functor $U: (A \downarrow F) \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}'$ maps a pair (A', α) to A' . The natural transformation (H, δ) now induces a cone $\bar{\delta}$ on $GI'U: (A \downarrow F) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ with vertex HA defined by

$$\bar{\delta}_{(A', \alpha: A \longrightarrow FA')} = \delta_{A'} \circ H\alpha: HA \xrightarrow{H\alpha} HFA' \xrightarrow{\delta_{A'}} GI'A' = GI'U(A', \alpha).$$

Definition 3.4. A left satellite (H, δ) of I' relative to $F: \mathcal{A}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ and $G: \mathcal{B}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is called **pointwise** when it is pointwise as a Kan extension, i.e., for every object A of \mathcal{A} , the cone $(HA, \bar{\delta})$ on $GI'U: (A \downarrow F) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a limit cone.

To check that a pair (H, δ) is a pointwise satellite it is not necessary to prove its universality as in Definition 3.1, but it suffices to check the limit condition from Definition 3.4; see, for example, Mac Lane [22, Theorem X.3.1].

3b. $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ as a satellite of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$. We are now ready to prove the first main result of this paper: we focus on the universal properties of the Everaert Sequence **(E)**, and prove that they allow us to interpret the $(n+1)$ -st homology with coefficients in I_k as a satellite of the n -th homology with coefficients in I_{k+1} .

Lemma 3.5. For $n \geq 1$, $k \geq 0$ and $A \in |\mathrm{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$,

$$K[H_n(!_A: A \longrightarrow 0, I_{k+1})] = H_n(A, I_k).$$

Proof. This follows from the exactness of the Everaert Sequence (E) and the fact that all $H_n(0, I_k)$ are zero. \square

Lemma 3.6. *For all $n \geq 1$, $k \geq 0$ and $f: B \longrightarrow A \in |\text{Ext}^{k+1}\mathcal{A}|$,*

$$\gamma_f^n = \ker \left(H_n \left(\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B \\ f \downarrow & \Rightarrow & \downarrow !_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\ & !_A & \end{array} , I_{k+1} \right) : K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})] \longrightarrow H_n(B, I_k) \right).$$

Proof. This follows from the previous lemma and the naturality of γ^n . Indeed, its naturality square at the map $(1_B, !_A)$ is nothing but

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})] & \xrightarrow{\ker H_n((1_B, !_A), I_{k+1})} & K[H_n(!_B, I_{k+1})] \\ \gamma_f^n \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma_{!_B}^n \\ H_n(B, I_k) & \xlongequal{\quad} & H_n(B, I_k); \end{array}$$

and all kernels may be chosen in such a way that $\gamma_{!_B}^n$ is an identity. \square

Proposition 3.7. *Let $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be a reflector of a semi-abelian category \mathcal{A} with enough projectives onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Let $n \geq 1$ and $k \geq 0$. Then $H_{n+1}(-, I_k): \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ with the connecting natural transformation*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} & \\ \text{cod} \swarrow & & \searrow H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \\ \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\delta^{n+1}} & \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \\ H_{n+1}(-, I_k) \swarrow & & \searrow \ker \\ & \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \end{array} \quad (\text{G})$$

is the pointwise left satellite of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$. In particular, for any object A of \mathcal{A} ,

$$H_{n+1}(A, I) = \text{Ran}_{\text{cod}}(\ker \circ H_n(-, I_1))(A) = \lim_{(f, g) \in |(A \downarrow \text{cod})|} K[H_n(f, I_1)].$$

Proof. Let A be an object of $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$. Let $p: P \longrightarrow A$ be a projective presentation of A . We have to show that $(H_{n+1}(A, I_k), \overline{\delta^{n+1}})$ is the limit of

$$(A \downarrow \text{cod}) \xrightarrow{U} \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{H_n(-, I_{k+1})} \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\ker} \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

To do so, let (L, λ) be another cone on $\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \circ U$; we use the presentation p of A to construct a map of cones $l: L \longrightarrow H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$.

First we consider the case $n = 1$. Recall from [5] that by definition $H_1(-, I_m) = I_m$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $p: P \longrightarrow A$ is a projective presentation of A , and thus $H_2(P, I_k) = 0$, the lower end of the Everaert Sequence (E) of p becomes

$$0 \longrightarrow H_2(A, I_k) \xrightarrow{\delta_p^2} K[I_{k+1}p] \xrightarrow{\gamma_p^1} I_k P.$$

In other words, δ_p^2 is the kernel of γ_p^1 . Recalling Diagram (F), consider the following two morphisms in $(A \downarrow \text{cod})$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 P & \xrightarrow{p} & A & \xrightarrow{1_A} & A \\
 \parallel & \Downarrow & \downarrow !_A & \Downarrow & \parallel \\
 P & \xrightarrow{!_P} & 0 & \xleftarrow{!_A} & A \\
 \uparrow i_P & \Uparrow & \uparrow 1_0 & \Uparrow & \parallel \\
 0 & \xleftarrow{1_0} & 0 & \xleftarrow{!_A} & A
 \end{array} \tag{H}$$

By Lemma 3.6, the naturality of λ at the downward-pointing morphism in Diagram (H) means $\gamma_p^1 \circ \lambda_{(p, 1_A)} = \lambda_{(!_P, !_A)}$. This latter morphism is zero, since the naturality of λ at the upward-pointing morphism in (H) means $\lambda_{(!_P, !_A)} = I_k(i_P) \circ \lambda_{(1_0, !_A)}$, and $I_k 0 = 0$. Hence there exists a unique morphism $l: L \rightarrow H_2(A, I_k)$ satisfying $\lambda_{(p, 1_A)} = \delta_p^2 \circ l$.

Higher up in the Everaert Sequence (E) of p , for $n \geq 2$, Corollary 2.7 gives us the isomorphism

$$\delta_p^{n+1}: H_{n+1}(A, I_k) \xrightarrow{\cong} K[H_n(p, I_{k+1})].$$

Here we may simply put $l = (\delta_p^{n+1})^{-1} \circ \lambda_{(p, 1_A)}$.

It remains to be shown that, in both cases, the constructed map l is a map of cones. Given any object $(f: B \rightarrow C, g: A \rightarrow C)$ of $(A \downarrow \text{cod})$, there is a map

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 P & \xrightarrow{p} & A & \xrightarrow{1_A} & A \\
 \downarrow & \Downarrow & \downarrow g & \Downarrow & \parallel \\
 B & \xrightarrow{f} & C & \xleftarrow{g} & A
 \end{array}$$

as P is projective. Writing h for the image of this map under $\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \circ U$, we see that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 L & \xrightarrow{l} & H_{n+1}(A, I_k) \\
 \lambda_{(p, 1_A)} \downarrow & \swarrow \lambda_{(f, g)} \quad \searrow \delta_p & \downarrow \bar{\delta}_{(f, g)} \\
 K[H_n(p, I_{k+1})] & \xrightarrow{h} & K[H_n(f, I_{k+1})]
 \end{array}$$

commutes: $\lambda_{(f, g)} = h \circ \lambda_{(p, 1_A)} = h \circ \delta_p \circ l = \bar{\delta}_{(f, g)} \circ l$. Thus l is indeed a map of cones, and $H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$ is the limit of the given diagram. \square

Remark 3.8. This gives a way to derive the $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ from $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$ for $n \geq 2$ in exactly the same way as $H_2(-, I_k)$ is derived from $H_1(-, I_{k+1}) = I_{k+1}$. In other approaches such as [5, 7] the two cases are formally different.

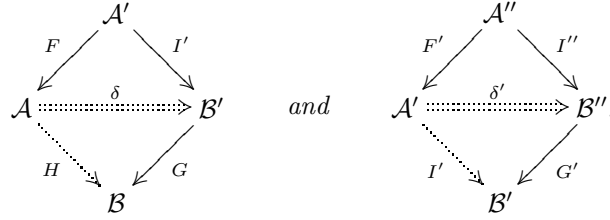
3c. $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ as a satellite of I_{k+n} . Proposition 3.7 gives a way to construct $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ out of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$. Here, with Theorem 3.10, we obtain a one-step construction of $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ out of I_{n+k} . To be able to apply Proposition 3.7 repeatedly, we have to show that satellite diagrams like Diagram (G) may be composed in a suitable way (cf. [16, Theorem 9]).

The kernel functor

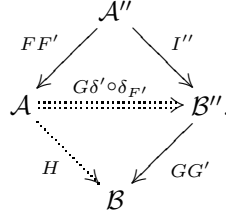
$$\ker: \text{Ext}^{k+1}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$$

that maps an extension $f: B \longrightarrow A$ to its kernel $K[f]$ has a left adjoint, namely the functor $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^{k+1}\mathcal{A}$ that sends an object C of $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$ to the extension $!_C: C \longrightarrow 0$. This allows us to use the following result.

Proposition 3.9. *Suppose that $(I', \delta') = \text{Ran}_{F'} G' I''$ and $(H, \delta) = \text{Ran}_F G I'$ as in the diagrams*



If G is a right adjoint then $(H, G\delta' \circ \delta_{F'}) = \text{Ran}_{FF'} GG' I''$: the two diagrams may be composed to form a single Kan extension diagram



If G preserves limits and (I', δ') and (H, δ) are pointwise satellites then $(H, G\delta' \circ \delta_{F'})$ is also a pointwise satellite.

Proof. We prove the pointwise case. Let A be an object of \mathcal{A} , and (C, σ) a cone on the diagram $GG' I'' U: (A \downarrow FF') \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$.

For any A' in \mathcal{A}' , the pair $(I' A', \bar{\delta'})$ is the limit of the diagram

$$G' I'' U': (A' \downarrow F') \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}'.$$

Since G preserves limits, $(GI' A', G\bar{\delta'})$ is the limit of $GG' I'' U': (A' \downarrow F') \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$. Now for every $\alpha: A \longrightarrow FA'$ the collection $(\sigma_{(A'', F\alpha' \circ \alpha)})_{(A'', \alpha') \in |(A' \downarrow F')|}$ also forms a cone on $GG' I'' U'$; hence there is a unique map $\mu_{(A', \alpha)}: C \longrightarrow GI' A'$ such that $G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI' \alpha' \circ \mu_{(A', \alpha)} = \sigma_{(A'', F\alpha' \circ \alpha)}$.

The collection $(\mu_{(A', \alpha)})_{(A', \alpha) \in |(A \downarrow F)|}$ in turn forms a cone on the diagram

$$GI' U: (A \downarrow FF') \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}.$$

Indeed, if (B', β) is an object of $(A \downarrow F)$ and $f': B' \longrightarrow A'$ is a map in \mathcal{A}' such that $Ff' \circ \beta = \alpha$, then $GI' f' \circ \mu_{(B', \beta)} = \mu_{(A', \alpha)}$, because for every $(A'', \alpha') \in |(A' \downarrow F')|$,

$$\begin{aligned} G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI' \alpha' \circ GI' f' \circ \mu_{(B', \beta)} &= \sigma_{(A'', F(\alpha' \circ f') \circ \beta)} \\ &= \sigma_{(A'', F\alpha' \circ \alpha)} \\ &= G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI' \alpha' \circ \mu_{(A', \alpha)}, \end{aligned}$$

and the $G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI' \alpha'$ are jointly monic.

This cone gives rise to the needed unique map $c: C \longrightarrow HA$. Since it satisfies $\mu_{(A', \alpha)} = \delta_{A'} \circ H\alpha \circ c$ for all $(A', \alpha) \in |(A \downarrow F)|$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} G\delta'_{A''} \circ \delta_{F'A''} \circ H\alpha'' \circ c &= G\delta'_{A''} \circ \delta_{F'A''} \circ HF\alpha' \circ H\alpha \circ c \\ &= G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI'\alpha' \circ \delta_{A'} \circ H\alpha \circ c \\ &= G\delta'_{A''} \circ GI'\alpha' \circ \mu_{(A', \alpha)} \\ &= \sigma_{(A'', F\alpha' \circ \alpha)} = \sigma_{(A'', \alpha'')} \end{aligned}$$

for all $\alpha'' = F\alpha' \circ \alpha: A \longrightarrow FA' \longrightarrow FF'A''$ in $|(A \downarrow FF')|$ —and any α'' allows such a decomposition. \square

Theorem 3.10. *Let $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be a reflector of a semi-abelian category with enough projectives \mathcal{A} onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Let $k \geq 0$ and $n \geq 1$. Then*

$$H_{n+1}(-, I_k): \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$$

with the connecting natural transformation

$$\partial^{n+1} = \ker^{n-1} \delta^2 \circ \dots \circ \ker \delta^n \circ \delta^{n+1}: H_{n+1}(-, I_k) \circ \text{cod}^n \implies \ker^n \circ I_{k+n}$$

is the pointwise left satellite of I_{k+n} .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A} & \\ \text{cod}^n \swarrow & & \searrow I_{k+n} \\ \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\partial^{n+1}} & \text{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A} \\ \text{H}_{n+1}(-, I_k) \searrow & & \swarrow \ker^n \\ & \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \end{array}$$

In particular, for any object A of \mathcal{A} ,

$$H_{n+1}(A, I) = \text{Ran}_{\text{cod}^n}(\ker^n \circ I_n)(A) = \lim_{(f, g) \in |(A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)|} K^n[I_n f].$$

Proof. This follows from gluing diagrams as in Proposition 3.7 together using Proposition 3.9. \square

3d. Symmetry. Proposition 3.7 gives an interpretation of the connecting morphisms δ_f^n in the Everaert sequence as left satellites. The connecting morphisms γ_f^n have a dual interpretation: $(H_n(-, I_k), \gamma^n)$ is a right satellite (left Kan extension) of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$.

Proposition 3.11. *Let $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be a reflector of a semi-abelian category \mathcal{A} with enough projectives onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Consider $n \geq 1$ and $k \geq 0$. Then $(H_n(-, I_k), \gamma^n)$, i.e., $H_n(-, I_k): \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ with the connecting natural transformation*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} & \\ H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \swarrow & & \searrow \text{dom} \\ \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\gamma^n} & \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \\ \text{ker} \searrow & & \swarrow H_n(-, I_k) \\ & \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \end{array}$$

is the pointwise right satellite of $H_n(-, I_{k+1})$.

Proof. For any A , the category $(\text{dom} \downarrow A)$ has a terminal object $(!_A : A \longrightarrow 0, 1_A)$, so the colimit object of the diagram

$$(\text{dom} \downarrow A) \xrightarrow{U} \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{H_n(-, I_{k+1})} \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\ker} \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$$

is $K[H_n(!_A, I_{k+1})] = H_n(A, I_k)$. The component of the colimit cocone at

$$(g : B \longrightarrow C, f : B \longrightarrow A) \in |(\text{dom} \downarrow A)|$$

is

$$\begin{aligned} \ker \left(H_n \left(\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \\ g \downarrow & \Rightarrow & \downarrow !_A \\ C & \xrightarrow{!_C} & 0 \end{array}, I_{k+1} \right) \right) &= \ker \left(H_n \left(\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \\ !_B \downarrow & \Rightarrow & \downarrow !_A \\ 0 & \xrightarrow{=} & 0 \end{array}, I_{k+1} \right) \right) \circ \ker \left(H_n \left(\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{=} & B \\ g \downarrow & \Rightarrow & \downarrow !_B \\ C & \xrightarrow{!_C} & 0 \end{array}, I_{k+1} \right) \right) \\ &= H_n(f, I_k) \circ \gamma_g^n \\ &= \gamma_{(g, f)}^n \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 3.6 and Lemma 3.5. \square

4. HOMOLOGY WITHOUT PROJECTIVES

In this section we set up a homology theory without projectives by defining homology via pointwise satellites as they appear in Proposition 3.7.

Proposition 4.1. *Let \mathcal{A} be a pointed exact protomodular category and $I : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ a reflector onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Consider $k \geq 0$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. If it exists, write*

$$H_{(2, k)} = \text{Ran}_{\text{cod}}(\ker \circ I_{k+1})$$

for the pointwise left satellite of I_{k+1} relative to the functors cod and \ker . Now suppose $H_{(n, k+1)}$ exists for $n \geq 2$, and write

$$H_{(n+1, k)} = \text{Ran}_{\text{cod}}(\ker \circ H_{(n, k+1)})$$

for the pointwise left satellite of $H_{(n, k+1)}$ relative to cod and \ker , if this exists. Then $H_{(n+1, k)}$ is also the left satellite of I_{k+n} relative to the functors cod^n and \ker^n .

Proof. The proof is the same as the proof of Theorem 3.10. \square

Definition 4.2. Let \mathcal{A} be a pointed exact protomodular category and $I : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ a reflector onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Consider $k \geq 0$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$, and let $n \geq 1$. If the functor $H_{(n+1, k)}$ from Proposition 4.1 exists, we call it the $(n+1)$ -st homology functor

$$H_{n+1}(-, I_k) : \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$$

(with coefficients in I_k).

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} & \\ \text{cod} \swarrow & & \searrow H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \\ \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\delta^{n+1}} & \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \\ & \searrow H_{n+1}(-, I_k) & \swarrow \ker \\ & \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} & \end{array}$$

We also write $H_1(-, I_k) = I_k$.

Remark 4.3. From now on, when we write $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ we mean the homology functor as defined here via Kan extensions, rather than the homology defined via Hopf formulae as in Sections 2 and 3.

Remark 4.4. For any object $A \in |\mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$, if $H_2(A, I_k)$ exists, it is the limit object of the diagram

$$(A \downarrow \text{cod}) \xrightarrow{U} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{I_{k+1}} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\ker} \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

Similarly, if $H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$ exists, it is the limit object of the diagram

$$(A \downarrow \text{cod}) \xrightarrow{U} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{H_n(-, I_{k+1})} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\ker} \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$$

or equivalently of

$$(A \downarrow \text{cod}^n) \xrightarrow{U} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{I_{k+n}} \mathbf{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\ker^n} \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}. \quad (\mathbf{I})$$

Potentially, these limits may exist for a given object A even if the homology functors $H_{n+1}(-, I_k)$ do not exist in full. Such a limit is most easily computed pointwise (in $\mathbf{Arr}^k \mathcal{A}$) and then shown to be an extension.

Example 4.5 (When the reflection is the identity). If $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A}$ then all I_n are identity functors, and the H_n are zero for $n \geq 2$. To see this, we have to prove that the functor $0: \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ is a pointwise Kan extension of $\ker: \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ along $\text{cod}: \mathbf{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$, for all $k \geq 0$. This shows that H_2 is zero, which immediately implies that the higher homologies are also zero, being satellites of the zero functor.

Let A be an object of $\mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ and (L, λ) a cone on $\ker \circ U: (A \downarrow \text{cod}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$. Then any map $\lambda_{(f,g)}$, where $(f: B \rightarrow C, g: A \rightarrow C) \in |(A \downarrow \text{cod})|$, fits into the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \xrightarrow{\lambda_{(f,g)}} & K[f] \\ \lambda_{(!_0, !_A)} \downarrow & \searrow \lambda_{(!_B, !_A)} & \downarrow \text{Ker } f \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & B, \end{array}$$

which means that $\lambda_{(f,g)}$ is the zero map. If now (L, λ) is a limit cone, this implies that L is zero.

The category $(A \downarrow \text{cod})$ is rather large, and in a given situation it may be very hard to decide whether the needed limits do indeed exist. Even if they do, they may still be hard to compute. But we may replace the above diagrams with simpler ones, for example using the concept of *initial subcategory*. Recall its definition as it occurs in [22, Section IX.3]:

Definition 4.6. An **initial functor** is a functor $F: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that for every object C of \mathcal{C} , the comma category $(F \downarrow C)$ is non-empty and connected. A subcategory \mathcal{D} of a category \mathcal{C} is called **initial** when the inclusion of \mathcal{D} into \mathcal{C} is an initial functor, i.e., for every object $C \in |\mathcal{C}|$, the full subcategory $(\mathcal{D} \downarrow C)$ of $(\mathcal{C} \downarrow C)$ determined by the maps $D \rightarrow C$ with domain D in \mathcal{D} is non-empty and connected.

If \mathcal{D} is initial in \mathcal{C} then limits of diagrams over \mathcal{C} may be computed as the limit of their restriction to \mathcal{D} . More generally, if $F: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is initial then a diagram $G: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ has a limit if and only if so does GF , in which case it may be computed as the limit of GF .

For any object A of $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$, let $\text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ denote the **category of extensions of A** , the preimage in $\text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ of the arrow 1_A under the functor $\text{cod}: \text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$. Then the functor $U': \text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (A \downarrow \text{cod})$ that sends an extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ of A to the pair $(f, 1_A)$ is easily seen to be initial: for every object

$$(f: B \rightarrow C, g: A \rightarrow C)$$

of $(A \downarrow \text{cod})$ there is the natural morphism $U'\bar{f} \rightarrow (f, g)$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \overline{B} & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & A & \xrightarrow{1_A} & A \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & \downarrow & \parallel \\ B & \xrightarrow{f} & C & \xleftarrow{g} & A, \end{array}$$

where \bar{f} is the pullback of f along g ; this \bar{f} is an extension by [7, Proposition 3.5]. Also, any other morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} D & \xrightarrow{h} & A & \xrightarrow{1_A} & A \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & \downarrow & \parallel \\ B & \xrightarrow{f} & C & \xleftarrow{g} & A, \end{array}$$

factors over this morphism $U'\bar{f} \rightarrow (f, g)$, by the universal property of a pullback. This means that the limit of $\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \circ U$ may also be computed as the limit of $\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1}) \circ UU'$ and moreover, since UU' is just the inclusion of the subcategory $\text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ into $\text{Ext}^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$, as the limit of

$$\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1}): \text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

But even now the diagram of shape $\text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ over which the limit is computed may be too large, in the sense that even if \mathcal{A} is small-complete, it is still unclear whether the limit of $\ker \circ H_n(-, I_{k+1})$ exists. In the case where \mathcal{A} has enough projectives, however, it is possible to further cut down on the size of this diagram. In this case Proposition 3.7 shows that the limit of this diagram exists and is equal to the homology object defined via the Hopf formulae. But making the diagram smaller gives a new way to calculate this homology. This situation is discussed in Section 5.

Notation 4.7. Let $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. Denote by $\text{Ext}_A^{k+n} \mathcal{A}$ the category of n -**extensions of A** , defined as the preimage of the arrow 1_A under the functor

$$\text{cod}^n: \text{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

This generalises the category $\text{Ext}_A^{k+1} \mathcal{A}$ of *extensions of A* defined above. Thus the objects are n -extensions with “terminal object” A , when viewed as diagrams in the category $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$, and the maps are those maps in $\text{Ext}^{k+n} \mathcal{A}$ which restrict to the identity on A under cod^n . Similarly the category $\text{CExt}_A^{k+n} \mathcal{A}$ denotes the full

subcategory of $\text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$ determined by those n -extensions which are central. The Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} is understood, and not mentioned in the notation.

Remark 4.8. The functor $U': \text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow (A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)$ which sends an n -extension f of A to $(f, 1_A)$ is still initial. This may be shown by induction, using the fact that in a category of n -fold extensions, the $(n+1)$ -extensions are pullback-stable [7, Proposition 3.5].

Proposition 4.9. *Let $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be a reflector of a pointed exact protomodular category \mathcal{A} onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Consider $k \geq 0$ and $n \geq 1$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. If it exists, $H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$ is also the limit of the diagram*

$$\ker^n \circ I_{k+n}: \text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

Proof. This uses Diagram (I) and the fact that $U': \text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow (A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)$ is initial. \square

Corollary 4.10. *For $k \geq 0$, $n \geq 1$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$, if it exists, $H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$ is the limit of the diagram*

$$\ker^n: \text{CExt}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}.$$

Proof. The functor $I_{k+n}: \text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{CExt}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$ is initial because, for any central extension $f \in |\text{CExt}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}|$, we have $I_{k+n}f = f$, so the comma category $(I_{k+n} \downarrow f)$ is non-empty and connected. \square

Since limits commute with kernels, Corollary 4.10 also says that $H_{n+1}(A, I_k)$ may be computed as the n -fold kernel of a certain $(n+k)$ -fold arrow in \mathcal{A} , namely, the limit in $\text{Arr}^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$ of the inclusion of $\text{CExt}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$ into $\text{Arr}^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$. Sometimes this n -fold arrow in $\text{Arr}^k \mathcal{A}$ itself happens to be an n -fold central extension of A . We say that an n -fold central extension of a k -extension A is **universal** when it is an initial object of $\text{CExt}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$. Recall from [12] (but see also [10, 18]) that, when \mathcal{A} is a semi-abelian category and $I = \text{ab}: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ab}\mathcal{A}$ is the abelianisation functor, then an object A of \mathcal{A} admits a universal central extension p if and only if it is **perfect**: its abelianisation is zero. In this case, $H_2(A, \text{ab})$ is the kernel of p . This latter property holds in general, also for higher extensions:

Corollary 4.11. *Consider $k \geq 0$, $n \geq 1$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. If A has a universal n -fold central extension p then $H_{n+1}(A, I) = K^n[p]$. In particular, if $A \in |\mathcal{A}|$ has a universal central extension $p: P \longrightarrow A$ then $H_2(A, I) = K[p]$.*

Proof. The limit of a functor over a category that has an initial object is the value of the functor at this object. \square

Example 4.12 (The homology of zero is zero). If $A = 0$ then, for any $n \geq 1$, the category $\text{CExt}_A^n \mathcal{A}$ has an initial object, the zero n -cube. Taking kernels as in Corollary 4.11 gives $H_{n+1}(0, I) = 0$.

Remark 4.13. Note that in certain special cases a *weakly* universal extension can also determine the homology of a k -extension A . When 1_A is a weakly universal extension of A , i.e., if every extension $f: B \longrightarrow A$ of A is split, we have $H_2(A, I_k) = 0$. This is because $K[I_k 1_A] = 0$ for any object A , so if 1_A is weakly initial, every leg of a cone over $\ker \circ I_k: \text{Ext}_A^{k+1}\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ factors over $K[I_k 1_A]$ and thus is zero. In particular, we get:

Example 4.14 (The homology of a projective object is zero). For any projective object P and any $n \geq 1$ we have $H_{n+1}(P, I) = 0$, since 1_P (and also the n -extension only consisting of the maps 1_P) is always weakly initial when P is projective.

Example 4.15 (Homology of finite groups). For a finite group, we compare its second homology groups with respect to two different adjunctions. On the one hand we have the abelianisation functor $\text{ab}: \mathbf{Gp} \rightarrow \mathbf{AbGp}$, where \mathbf{Gp} is the category of groups, \mathbf{AbGp} is the Birkhoff subcategory of abelian groups, and $\text{ab } G = G/[G, G]$. This example has been studied in the classical setting in [9] (for lower dimensions) and in [5, 7] (higher dimensions). Here the centralisation functor ab_1 takes an extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ to $\text{centr } f: B/[K[f], B] \rightarrow A$. As mentioned in Section 1a, in this case Definition 4.2 gives the classical integral homology of groups.

On the other hand, we could focus on finite groups and let $\mathcal{A} = \mathbf{FinGp}$ be the category of finite groups and $\mathcal{B} = \mathbf{FinAb} = \mathbf{AbFinGp}$ its Birkhoff subcategory of finite abelian groups. Note that \mathbf{FinGp} is not semi-abelian and doesn't have enough projectives, but nevertheless it is pointed, Barr exact and Bourn proto-modular. Here $I: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ again sends a group G to $\text{finab } G = G/[G, G]$ and $I_1: \text{ExtFinGp} \rightarrow \text{ExtFinGp}$ sends an extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ to

$$\text{fincentr } f: \frac{B}{[K[f], B]} \rightarrow A.$$

We show that, for any finite group, its second homology groups with respect to the two theories coincide.

For perfect groups this is clear. Recall from Corollary 4.11 that if a group G has a universal central extension $p: P \rightarrow G$, then the homology is $H_2(G, \text{ab}) = K[p]$; this is the case when G is perfect: $\text{ab } G = 0$. So given a finite perfect group G , we know that it has a universal central extension $p: P \rightarrow G$ in the category \mathbf{Gp} of all groups, and that $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) = H_2(G, \text{ab}) = K[p]$. But we also know that the integral homology of a finite group is a *finite* group, therefore the group P must also be finite, and the universal central extension $p: P \rightarrow G$ lies in the category \mathbf{FinGp} of *finite* groups. Thus we also have $H_2(G, \text{finab}) = K[p]$. So for a finite perfect group G we have $H_2(G, \text{finab}) = H_2(G, \text{ab}) = H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$.

For a general group, we need a few more steps to prove this equality.

Step 1: First we want to show that, for any finite group G , there is a central extension $G^* \rightarrow G$ with kernel $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$, such that in the diagram

$$\ker: \text{CExt}_G \mathbf{Gp} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gp}, \tag{J}$$

the leg from the limit $H_2(G, \text{ab})$ to this object is an isomorphism. We consider **stem extensions**: central extensions $g: H \rightarrow G$ with $K[g] \leq [H, H]$. This condition implies that $\text{ab } H \rightarrow \text{ab } G$ is an isomorphism, or equivalently that the map $K[g] \rightarrow \text{ab } H$ is zero. So it follows from exactness in **(E)** that the leg $H_2(G, \text{ab}) \rightarrow K[g]$ is a surjection when g is a stem extension. To find a stem extension with $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ as its kernel, we use the **Schur multiplier** $M(G)$ of a finite group G introduced in [23]. Schur proved in [24] that for a finite group G , this multiplier $M(G)$ may be expressed in terms of what is now called the Hopf formula (which, in the infinite case, was only introduced in [15]), and so we have $M(G) \cong H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ (see also, e.g., [21, Theorem 2.4.6]). In [23] he showed that, for any finite group G , there is a stem extension $f: G^* \rightarrow G$ of G with kernel $M(G)$ (see also [21, Theorem 2.1.4]).

Putting these two facts together, we see that $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ occurs in the diagram **(J)** as the kernel of this stem extension f , and that the leg from $H_2(G, \text{ab})$ to it must be an isomorphism, being a surjection between finite groups of the same size. From now on we shall assume that this isomorphism is an identity.

Step 2: We now consider the diagram of kernels of *finite* central extensions of G ,

$$\ker: \text{CExt}_G \text{FinGp} \longrightarrow \text{FinGp}, \quad (\mathbf{K})$$

which is a small diagram and so has a limit in Gp which we denote by L . We shall show in Step 3 that $L \cong H_2(G, \text{ab})$ and so is actually the limit of **(K)** in the category FinGp as well, as $H_2(G, \text{ab})$ is a finite group.

$H_2(G, \text{ab})$ forms a cone on **(K)**, using the legs from **(J)**. The induced map of cones to L gives a splitting for the leg $p: L \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) = K[f]$. As these are all abelian groups, we have $L \cong H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E$ for some abelian group E , and $p = \pi_1: L \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$, the first projection. We consider the following central extensions and maps between them:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & G^* & \xrightarrow{f} & G \\ \downarrow p & & \downarrow \pi_1 & \scriptstyle (1_{G^*}, 0) & \parallel \\ H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E & \xrightarrow{\quad} & G^* \times E & \xrightarrow{f \circ \pi_1} & G \\ \downarrow \pi_2 & & \downarrow f \times 1_E & & \parallel \\ E & \xrightarrow{\quad} & G \times E & \xrightarrow{\pi_1} & G \end{array}$$

Since the extension $\pi_1: G \times E \longrightarrow G$ is split, the leg from L to $E = K[\pi_1]$ must be the zero map. So the leg from L to $K[f \circ \pi_1]$ is

$$1_{H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})} \oplus 0: L \cong H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E,$$

as $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E$ is a product.

Step 3: Finally we consider a third, even smaller diagram. Let \mathcal{C} be the full subcategory of $\text{CExt}_G \text{FinGp}$ containing those extensions g of G for which there exists a map $f \longrightarrow g$ in $\text{CExt}_G \text{FinGp}$. We consider the subdiagram

$$\ker: \mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \text{FinGp}, \quad (\mathbf{L})$$

the limit of which is $H_2(G, \text{ab})$. For any cone D over the diagram **(L)**, the two legs $d: D \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) = K[f]$ and $0: D \longrightarrow E = K[\pi_1]$ again determine the leg to the product, $(d, 0): D \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E = K[f \circ \pi_1]$. The leg d also forms the unique cone map $D \longrightarrow H_2(G, \text{ab})$. Notice that in **(L)** we also have maps from $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E$ to any other object, as $p: H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus E \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ is part of the diagram. So as we have $(1_{H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})} \oplus 0) \circ (d, 0) = (d, 0)$, the map $(d, 0): D \longrightarrow L$ is a cone map and makes L into a limit of **(L)**. So $L \cong H_2(G, \text{ab})$ as promised, and we have $H_2(G, \text{finab}) = H_2(G, \text{ab}) = H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ for any finite group G .

Example 4.16 (Internal groups in an exact category). A possible source of further examples is the category of internal groups $\text{Gp}\mathcal{E}$ in an exact category \mathcal{E} , with its Birkhoff subcategory of internal abelian groups $\text{AbGp}\mathcal{E}$. When \mathcal{E} is exact, $\text{Gp}\mathcal{E}$ is semi-abelian if and only if it has coproducts (see [19]); it is always pointed exact protomodular. But in general it need not have enough projectives, so our

definition of homology via Kan extensions could be a useful tool. One particular class of examples amongst these are internal groups in a topos. The category of internal abelian groups $\mathbf{AbGp}\mathcal{E}$ in a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} has enough injectives (see, e.g., Chapter 8 of [20]), so cohomology theory is possible in this category, but enough projectives are not generally available. In future work we intend to investigate the category of group-valued sheaves on a space as an example of such a situation. Other interesting Birkhoff subcategories of $\mathbf{Gp}\mathcal{E}$ might exist, giving further situations where our definition of homology could be used.

It is well known that all integral homology groups of a group are abelian. More generally, both approaches to homology discussed in Subsections 1a and 1c are such that the homology objects are abelian objects of the Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} . We now prove that our homology objects $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ also satisfy these properties.

Lemma 4.17. *Consider an object $A \in |\mathcal{A}|$. The kernel $K[f]$ of a central extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ of A is an object of the Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} . More generally, for $k \geq 1$ and $A \in |\mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$, the kernel $K[f]$ of a central extension f of A is a k -fold central extension.*

Proof. Let $k \geq 0$, and $A \in |\mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. First consider a trivial extension $f: B \rightarrow A$. This means f is the pullback of $I_k f: I_k B \rightarrow I_k A$ along η_A^k , so $K[f]$ is isomorphic to $K[I_k f]$. This kernel of the extension $I_k f: I_k B \rightarrow I_k A$ is a k -fold central extension (or an object of \mathcal{B} for $k = 0$) because the category $\mathbf{CExt}^k \mathcal{A}$ is closed under limits which exist in $\mathbf{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$, as it is a full replete reflective subcategory. (For $k = 0$ just note that the Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} is closed under subobjects.) Now for a central extension $f: B \rightarrow A$, recall from Remark 2.4 that there exists an extension g such that the pullback \bar{f} of f along g is trivial.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K[\bar{f}] & \twoheadrightarrow & \bar{B} & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & \bar{A} \\ & & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow g \\ & & B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \\ & \parallel & & & \\ K[f] & \twoheadrightarrow & B & \xrightarrow{f} & A \end{array}$$

But then $K[f] = K[\bar{f}]$, which is a k -fold central extension (or an object of \mathcal{B}) as \bar{f} is trivial. \square

Remark 4.18. The converse implication does not hold, as for example in the category of groups not every extension with abelian kernel is central.

Proposition 4.19. *Let A be an object of \mathcal{A} and $n \geq 0$. Then $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ is an object of \mathcal{B} .*

Proof. If $n = 0$ the result is clear as $H_1(A, I) = IA$. For $n \geq 1$, we use Lemma 4.17 repeatedly to see that the diagram from Corollary 4.10 factors over \mathcal{B} and becomes the functor $\ker^n: \mathbf{CExt}_A^n \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$. Since \mathcal{B} is closed under limits in \mathcal{A} , the limit $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ of this diagram is still an object of \mathcal{B} . \square

Example 4.20 (When the reflection is zero). If $\mathcal{B} = 0$, the zero subcategory in \mathcal{A} , then all homology objects are zero, because they are in \mathcal{B} by Proposition 4.19.

The proofs of the next result—Proposition 4.22—and its lemma were offered to us by Tomas Everaert. Recall that an object A of a pointed exact protomodular

category \mathcal{A} is **abelian** if it carries an internal abelian group structure. Such a structure is necessarily unique, and is given by a morphism $m: A \times A \longrightarrow A$ satisfying $m \circ (1_A, 0) = 1_A = m \circ (0, 1_A)$, called its **addition** (see [3]). The abelian objects form a Birkhoff subcategory $\mathbf{Ab}\mathcal{A}$ of \mathcal{A} .

Lemma 4.21. *For any $k \geq 0$ and any $(k+1)$ -extension $f: B \longrightarrow A$ in \mathcal{A} , the image of the connecting morphism*

$$\delta_f^2: H_2(A, I_k) \longrightarrow K[H_1(f, I_{k+1})] = K[I_{k+1}f]$$

is an abelian object of $\mathbf{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$.

Proof. We show that $\text{Im}[\delta_f^2]$ is a subobject of an abelian object in $\mathbf{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$, namely the kernel of the map

$$K[(I_{k+1}f, I_kf)]: K[I_{k+1}f] \longrightarrow K[I_kf];$$

here $(I_{k+1}f, I_kf): \eta_{I_{k+1}[f]} \longrightarrow \eta_A$ is a double extension in $\mathbf{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$, so its kernel is an extension by [7, Proposition 3.9]. To see that the kernel $K^2[(I_{k+1}f, I_kf)]$ of this extension is an abelian object of $\mathbf{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$, write $(\pi_1, \pi_2): R[f] \longrightarrow B \times B$ for the kernel pair of f , and recall the construction of $J_{k+1}[f]$ from Subsection 2e. We have $K[I_{k+1}f] = K[f]/J_{k+1}[f] = K[f]/\pi_2(J_k R[f] \cap K[f])$, since $J_{k+1}[f] = J_k R[f] \cap K[f]$ as a normal subobject of $R[f]$, and its direct image under π_2 gives us a normal subobject of B (note that $\pi_2(J_{k+1}[f]) = J_{k+1}[f]$ as μ_f^1 is a normal monomorphism). Similarly $K[I_kf] = K[f]/(J_k B \cap K[f]) = K[f]/(\pi_2 J_k R[f] \cap \pi_2 K[f])$, so that

$$K^2[(I_{k+1}f, I_kf)] = \frac{\pi_2 J_k R[f] \cap \pi_2 K[f]}{\pi_2(J_k R[f] \cap K[f])}$$

by Noether's First Isomorphism Theorem [3, Theorem 4.3.10]. Theorem 2.1 in [4] implies that this object is abelian.

Now consider the arrow $(1_B, !_A): f \longrightarrow !_B$ in $\mathbf{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B \\ f \downarrow & \Rightarrow & \downarrow !_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\ & !_A & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H_2(A, I_k) & \longrightarrow & H_2(0, I_k) \\ \delta_f^2 \downarrow & & \downarrow \delta_{!_B}^2 \\ K[I_{k+1}f] & \longrightarrow & I_k B \end{array}$$

and the induced commutative square on the right hand side. As $H_2(0, I_k)$ is zero, the map δ_f^2 factors over the kernel of $\eta_{I_{k+1}[f]} \circ \text{Ker } I_{k+1}f: K[I_{k+1}f] \longrightarrow I_k B$. The image of this latter map is $K[I_kf]$, so $\text{Im}[\delta_f^2]$ is indeed a subobject of the abelian object $K^2[(I_{k+1}f, I_kf)]$, and thus itself an abelian object as claimed. \square

Proposition 4.22. *Let A be an object of \mathcal{A} and $n \geq 1$. Then $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ is an abelian object of \mathcal{A} .*

Proof. It suffices to show that, for all $k \geq 0$ and any k -extension A , the object $H_2(A, I_k)$ is abelian in $\mathbf{Arr}^k\mathcal{A}$, as then the higher homology objects are limits of a diagram of abelian objects, and thus abelian by induction. To show $H_2(A, I_k)$ is abelian, consider the functor

$$H_2(-, I_k) \times H_2(-, I_k): \mathbf{Ext}^k\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$$

that sends a k -extension A to the product $H_2(A, I_k) \times H_2(A, I_k)$. The previous lemma gives rise to a natural transformation

$$(H_2(-, I_k) \times H_2(-, I_k)) \circ \text{cod} \Longrightarrow \text{ker} \circ I_{k+1}$$

of functors from $\text{Ext}^{k+1}\mathcal{A}$ to $\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}$; the component of this natural transformation at a $(k+1)$ -extension $f: B \rightarrow A$ is the composition

$$H_2(A, I_k) \times H_2(A, I_k) \rightarrow \text{Im}[\delta_f^2] \times \text{Im}[\delta_f^2] \rightarrow \text{Im}[\delta_f^2] \rightarrow K[I_{k+1}f].$$

Here the first arrow is the corestriction of $\delta_f^2 \times \delta_f^2$, the second arrow is the addition on the abelian object $\text{Im}[\delta_f^2]$, and the last arrow is the inclusion of the image into the codomain of δ_f^2 . The universal property of the Kan extension $(H_2(-, I_k), \delta^2)$ now yields a natural transformation $H_2(-, I_k) \times H_2(-, I_k) \Rightarrow H_2(-, I_k)$ which is easily seen to define an abelian group structure on all $H_2(A, I_k)$. \square

5. HOMOLOGY WITH PROJECTIVES

In this section we investigate our new definition of homology in the situation when \mathcal{A} does have enough projectives. In this case we know that homology exists, for example via Everaert's definition using the Hopf formulae, and Proposition 3.7 shows that it coincides with the notion introduced in Definition 4.2. But by reducing the size of the diagram which defines the homology objects, we obtain a new way to calculate homology. Our main aim is to show Theorem 5.6 which states that the $(n+1)$ -st homology of a k -extension A may be computed as a limit over the category $\text{End}p$ of all endomorphisms of an n -presentation p of A .

Notation 5.1. For any n -extension f of a k -extension A , let $\text{End}f$, the **category of endomorphisms of f over A** , be the full subcategory of $\text{Ext}_A^{k+n}\mathcal{A}$ determined by the object f . Thus maps in $\text{End}f$ are maps from f to itself which restrict to the identity on A under the functor cod^n .

When \mathcal{A} has enough projectives we can interpret Proposition 3.7 the other way round to give

Theorem 5.2 (Hopf Formula). *Let \mathcal{A} be a semi-abelian category with enough projectives and $I: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ a reflector onto a Birkhoff subcategory \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{A} . Let $n \geq 1$. Given an n -fold presentation p of an object $A \in |\text{Ext}^k\mathcal{A}|$, we have*

$$H_{n+1}(A, I_k) \cong K^{n+1}[I_{k+n}p \rightarrow T_{k+n}p].$$

Proof. This is just Proposition 3.7 viewed from the perspective of Definition 4.2. \square

Remark 5.3. In [5, 6] Everaert gives a direct proof that the right hand side of the Hopf formula is a **Baer invariant** of A : an expression independent of the chosen n -fold presentation p of A (see also [8, 10]). More precisely, any morphism $p \rightarrow p$ over A induces the identity on $K^{n+1}[I_{k+n}p \rightarrow T_{k+n}p]$.

Of course we can still calculate homology as a limit, as defined in Section 4. It turns out that in this case, homology may also be computed as a limit over the small subdiagram of shape $\widehat{\text{End}p}$, which is a subcategory of $(A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)$.

Notation 5.4. Let p be an n -presentation of a k -extension A . The category $\widehat{\text{End}p}$ we want to consider is inspired by a higher-dimensional variation on Diagram **(H)**: it is the subcategory of $(A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)$ that is generated by the objects $(p, 1_A)$, $(!_P, !_A)$

and $(1_0, !_A)$, all endomorphisms of p over A , and the three maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 P & \xrightarrow{p} & Q \\
 \parallel \scriptstyle 1_P \downarrow & \Downarrow & \downarrow \scriptstyle !_Q \\
 P & \xrightarrow{!_P} & 0 \\
 \uparrow \scriptstyle !_P \downarrow & \Uparrow & \uparrow \scriptstyle !_Q \\
 0 & \xrightarrow{1_0} & 0
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{1_A} & A \\
 \downarrow \scriptstyle !_A & \Downarrow & \downarrow \scriptstyle !_A \\
 0 & \xleftarrow{!_A} & A \\
 \uparrow \scriptstyle !_A \downarrow & \Uparrow & \uparrow \scriptstyle !_A \\
 0 & \xleftarrow{!_A} & A
 \end{array}$$

in $(A \downarrow \text{cod}^n)$. The object A is a k -extension, but P and Q are $(k+n-1)$ -extensions, with A being the “terminal object” of Q (when Q is considered as a diagram in $\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$). Q , the codomain of p , is an $(n-1)$ -presentation of A (cf. definition of n -presentation in Subsection 2g). Note that there is an obvious inclusion $\text{End} p \longrightarrow \widehat{\text{End} p}$ sending p to $(p, 1_A)$.

Proposition 5.5. *Consider $k \geq 0$, $n \geq 1$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$, and let p be an n -fold presentation of A . Then*

$$K^{n+1}[I_{k+n}p \longrightarrow T_{k+n}p] = \lim(\ker^n \circ I_{k+n} \circ U : \widehat{\text{End} p} \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}).$$

Proof. Kernels and limits commute, so the above limit is also $K^{n-1}[\lim \ker I_{k+n}U]$. Note that $K^{n+1}[I_{k+n}p \longrightarrow T_{k+n}p]$ is the same as $K^n[I_{k+n}[p] \longrightarrow T_{k+n}[p]]$, where $I_{k+n}[p]$ and $T_{k+n}[p]$ denote the domains of $I_{k+n}p$ and $T_{k+n}p$ respectively. Thus we only have to show that the limit of $\ker I_{k+n}U$ coincides with the kernel of $r_p^{k+n} : I_{k+n}[p] \longrightarrow T_{k+n}[p]$.

The diagram $\ker I_{k+n}U$ we are considering is

$$K[I_{k+n}p] \xrightarrow{\ker(I_{k+n}(1_P, !_Q))=f} K[I_{k+n}!_P] = I_{k+n-1}P \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} 0$$

where we name the non-zero map f , for convenience. Recall from Remark 2.1 that $K[I_{k+n}!_P] = I_{k+n-1}P$. We will show that $K[f] = K[r_p^{k+n}]$, which will in turn imply that $K[r_p^{k+n}]$ is indeed the limit of this diagram.

Consider the following diagram, where we are taking kernels to the left. The kernel objects of $T_{k+n}p$ and $I_{k+n-1}p$ are equal, because the bottom right square is a pullback, by definition of $T_{k+n}p$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & K[I_{k+n}p] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } I_{k+n}p} & I_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n}p} & Q \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \scriptstyle \bar{\tau} & & \downarrow \scriptstyle r_p^{k+n} & & \parallel \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & K[T_{k+n}p] & \xrightarrow{\quad} & T_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{T_{k+n}p} & Q \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow \scriptstyle \bar{\eta} & & \downarrow \scriptstyle \eta_Q^{k+n-1} \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & K[I_{k+n-1}p] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } I_{k+n-1}p} & I_{k+n-1}P & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n-1}p} & I_{k+n-1}Q \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array}$$

Recall Diagram (D): $\bar{\eta} \circ r_p^{k+n} = \eta_{I_{k+n}[p]}^{k+n-1}$. Looking at the top two exact sequences, we see that the top left square is a pullback, because the arrow $Q \longrightarrow Q$ at the right hand side is a monomorphism. Thus $K[r_p^{k+n}] = K[\bar{\tau}]$, and $\bar{\tau}$ is also a regular epi. We will show that f factors as $f = \text{Ker } I_{k+n-1}p \circ \bar{\tau}$, and then $K[f] = K[\bar{\tau}] = K[r_p^{k+n}]$ as desired.

The map f is induced by the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K[I_{k+n}p] & \twoheadrightarrow & I_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n}p} & Q \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow \eta_{I_{k+n}[p]}^{k+n-1} & & \downarrow \\ I_{k+n-1}P & \xlongequal{\quad} & I_{k+n}[!P] & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n}!P} & 0 \end{array}$$

It is easily checked that the map $I_{k+n}[p] \rightarrow I_{k+n}[!P]$ above is indeed the same as in the following diagram (c.f. also Lemma 2.2):

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K[I_{k+n}p] & \twoheadrightarrow & I_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n}p} & Q \\ \downarrow \bar{r} & \searrow f & \downarrow \eta_{I_{k+n}[p]}^{k+n-1} & & \downarrow \eta_Q^{k+n-1} \\ K[I_{k+n-1}p] & \twoheadrightarrow & I_{k+n-1}P & \xrightarrow{I_{k+n-1}p} & I_{k+n-1}Q \end{array}$$

Thus f factors as promised and we have $K[f] = K[r_p^{k+n}]$.

A cone (C, σ) on $\ker I_{k+n}U: \widehat{\text{End}}_n p \rightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}$ consists of three maps $\sigma_{(p, 1_A)}$, $\sigma_{(!P, !A)}$ and $\sigma_{(1_0, !A)}$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\sigma_{(p, 1_A)}} & K[I_{k+n}p] \\ \downarrow \sigma_{(1_0, !A)} & \searrow \sigma_{(!P, !A)} & \downarrow f \\ 0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & I_{k+n-1}P. \end{array}$$

We see that $f \circ \sigma_{(p, 1_A)} = 0$, so $\sigma_{(p, 1_A)}$ factors over

$$\text{Ker } f = \text{Ker } \bar{r}: K[r_p^{k+n}] \rightarrow K[I_{k+n}p].$$

This factorisation is the needed map $C \rightarrow K[r_p^{k+n}: I_{k+n}[p] \rightarrow T_{k+n}[p]]$.

We still have to show that $K[r_p^{k+n}]$ itself forms a cone on the diagram $\ker I_{k+n}U$. Suppose (g, h) is any endomorphism of p over A , and write \bar{g} for the induced morphism $\ker(I_{k+n}(g, h)): K[I_{k+n}p] \rightarrow K[I_{k+n}p]$. We have to check that $\bar{g} \circ \text{Ker } \bar{r} = \text{Ker } \bar{r}$. This, however, is a consequence of the fact that $K[r_p^{k+n}]$ is a Baer invariant of A —see Remark 5.3. Indeed, in the diagram of short exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K[r_p^{k+n}] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } r_p^{k+n}} & I_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{r_p^{k+n}} & T_{k+n}[p] \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow g' & & \downarrow I_{k+n}[(g, h)] & & \downarrow T_{k+n}[(g, h)] \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & K[r_p^{k+n}] & \xrightarrow{\text{Ker } r_p^{k+n}} & I_{k+n}[p] & \xrightarrow{r_p^{k+n}} & T_{k+n}[p] \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

the induced arrow g' is $1_{K[r_p^{k+n}]}$; hence, using that $\text{Ker } r_p^{k+n} = \text{Ker } I_{k+n}p \circ \text{Ker } \bar{r}$, we get

$$\text{Ker } I_{k+n}p \circ \text{Ker } \bar{r} = \text{Ker } I_{k+n}p \circ h \circ \text{Ker } \bar{r}$$

and the needed equality follows. \square

Theorem 5.6. *Consider $k \geq 0$, $n \geq 1$ and $A \in |\text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}|$. If \mathcal{A} has enough projectives and p is an n -fold presentation of A then*

$$H_{n+1}(A, I_k) = \lim(\ker^n \circ I_{k+n}: \text{End } p \rightarrow \text{Ext}^k \mathcal{A}).$$

Proof. By Theorem 5.2 the $(n+1)$ -st homology of A is $K^{n+1}[I_{k+n}p \longrightarrow T_{k+n}p]$. Hence by Proposition 5.5 it suffices to show that $\text{End}p$ is initial in $\widehat{\text{End}}_n p$. We must check that the slice categories $(\text{End}p \downarrow (p, 1_A))$, $(\text{End}p \downarrow (!_P, !_A))$ and $(\text{End}p \downarrow (1_0, !_A))$ are non-empty and connected (here we view $\text{End}p$ as the full subcategory of $\widehat{\text{End}}p$ determined by $(p, 1_A)$). There is only one possible map from $(p, 1_A)$ to $(1_0, !_A)$, and the other two categories fulfil the needed conditions essentially because $((1_P, 1_Q), (1_A, 1_A))$ is a terminal object of the slice category $(\text{End}p \downarrow (p, 1_A))$, and the only maps in $\widehat{\text{End}}p$ from $(p, 1_A)$ to $(!_P, !_A)$ are compositions of an endomorphism of $(p, 1_A)$ with $((1_P, !_Q), (!_A, 1_A))$. \square

Remark 5.7. This means that *computing the homology of an object essentially amounts to finding fixed points of endomorphisms of a projective presentation of this object*. The use of this technique will be illustrated in Examples 5.9 and 5.10.

Remark 5.8. We now come back to Remark 5.3 and interpret Definition 4.2 in terms of Baer invariants. It provides an alternative answer to the following question: “Given a functor $I: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ and an object A of \mathcal{A} , how can we construct an object $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ out of the n -extensions of A in a manner which is independent of any particular chosen extension of A ?” The classical example is the Hopf formula

$$H_2(I, A)_{\mathbb{G}} \cong K^2[I_1 p \longrightarrow T_1 p]$$

which expresses $H_2(A, I)_{\mathbb{G}}$ in terms of a projective presentation $p: P \longrightarrow A$ of A . Of course, the very existence of the isomorphism implies that the expression on its right hand side cannot depend on the choice of p . The idea behind Definition 4.2 is different but straightforward: simply take the limit of *all* extensions of A . The independence might now be understood as follows. If p is an n -presentation of A then $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ is the limit of $\ker^n \circ I_n: \text{End}p \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$, which means that $H_{n+1}(A, I)$ is the universal object with the property that all endomorphisms of p are mapped to the same automorphism of this object, its identity.

Finally we show, as worked out examples, that we can retrieve well-known results in group homology using our new definition.

Example 5.9 (Finite cyclic groups). We use the methods of our theory to calculate $H_2(C_n, \text{ab})$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where C_n is the cyclic group of order n . As \mathbb{Z} is projective and abelian, the map $p: \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow C_n$ which sends $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ to a generator $c \in C_n$ is a projective presentation of C_n , and central. Thus $H_2(C_n, \text{ab})$ is the limit of the diagram $\ker: \text{End}p \longrightarrow \text{Gp}$. Now any endomorphism of p must be

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{p} & C_n \\ \cdot(nk+1) \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{p} & C_n \end{array}$$

i.e., multiplication by $(nk+1)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. So $H_2(C_n, \text{ab})$ is the limit of the diagram which has as only object $n\mathbb{Z}$, and maps $\cdot(nk+1): n\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow n\mathbb{Z}$. If $\lambda: H_2(C_n, \text{ab}) \longrightarrow n\mathbb{Z}$ is the leg of the limit cone, we must have $\lambda(x) \cdot (nk+1) = \lambda(x)$ for every element $x \in H_2(C_n, \text{ab})$ and every k . So we are looking for fixed points of the map $\cdot(nk+1)$. But as, in $n\mathbb{Z}$, 0 is the only fixed point of multiplication by $(nk+1)$ for all $k \neq 1$, we have $\lambda(x) = 0$ for all $x \in H_2(C_n, \text{ab})$. Thus, as λ is a limit cone and so a monomorphism, $H_2(C_n, \text{ab}) = 0$.

Example 5.10 (Generators and relations). Given a presentation of a group in terms of generators and relations, for example

$$A = \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid r_i = 1 \rangle$$

for some relations r_i , the kernel of the free presentation

$$p: F_n \longrightarrow A$$

is generated by the relations r_i as a *normal* subgroup of F_n . Here F_n is the free group on n generators. But when we go to the centralisation

$$\text{centr } p: \frac{F_n}{[K[p], F_n]} \longrightarrow A,$$

every element of the kernel commutes with every other element, so now $K[\text{centr } p]$ is generated by the relations r_i as a subgroup of $F_n/[K[p], F_n]$. Every endomorphism of p over A must send a generator a_i to $a_i k_i$ for some $k_i \in K[f]$, and any choice of k_i gives such an endomorphism. Thus on $\text{centr } p$ we get endomorphisms that send $a_i \in F_n/[K[p], F_n]$ to $a_i \prod_j r_j^{\alpha_{ij}}$, for some $\alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$, and again any choice of α_{ij} gives an endomorphism. Note that $K[\text{centr } p]$ is an abelian group, since it is in the centre of $F_n/[K[p], F_n]$. From here it is relatively easy to find the fixed points of the induced endomorphism of $K[\text{centr } p]$, given a specific group in terms of generators and relations. We give as an example

$$C_n \times C_n = \langle a, b \mid a^n = 1 = b^n, aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1 \rangle.$$

Here $p: F_2 \longrightarrow C_n \times C_n$, and $K[\text{centr } p]$ is generated by $x = a^n$, $y = b^n$ and $z = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$. Note that as $aba^{-1}b^{-1}$ commutes with everything, we get $(aba^{-1}b^{-1})^n = ab^n a^{-1} b^{-n}$, and as b^n also commutes with everything, we have $z^n = 1$. As described above, any endomorphism of $\text{centr } p$ induced by one on p sends $a \in F_2/[K[p], F_2]$ to $ax^{\alpha_1}y^{\alpha_2}z^{\alpha_3}$ and b to $bx^{\beta_1}y^{\beta_2}z^{\beta_3}$. On $K[\text{centr } p]$ this gives

$$\begin{aligned} x &\longmapsto x^{n\alpha_1+1}y^{n\alpha_2} \\ y &\longmapsto x^{n\beta_1}y^{n\beta_2+1} \\ z &\longmapsto z \end{aligned}$$

as the x , y and z commute with everything, and $z^n = 1$. For $x^{l_1}y^{l_2}z^{l_3}$ to be a fixed point for any of these endomorphisms, we need

$$\begin{aligned} l_1\alpha_1 + l_2\beta_1 &= 0 \\ l_1\alpha_2 + l_2\beta_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for any choice of α_i and β_i , or in other words we need

$$l_1\alpha + l_2\beta = 0$$

for any choice of α and β . Hence $l_1 = l_2 = 0$, and we have fixed points z^{l_3} . Since $z^n = 1$, we get

$$H_2(C_n \times C_n, \text{ab}) = C_n.$$

Note that we can use the diagram over $\widehat{\text{End}} p$ instead of $\text{End} p$ to see that any fixed point must be of the form $aba^{-1}b^{-1}$ for some a and b (or a product of such),

since the fixed point must be sent to the identity in $\text{ab } F_n = F_n/[F_n, F_n]$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_2(A, \text{ab}) & \longrightarrow & K[\text{centr } p] \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{ab } F_n \end{array}$$

Comparing this to the Hopf formula

$$H_2(A, \text{ab}) = \frac{[F_n, F_n] \cap K[p]}{[K[p], F_n]},$$

we see that the calculation using our method is exactly the same as the one using the Hopf formula; the only thing that is different is the *interpretation* of these elements as fixed points of certain endomorphisms. Note that we of course proved in Proposition 5.5 that the limit of the diagram $\ker \circ I_1 : \widehat{\text{End}} p \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is the expression of the Hopf formula, so this is exactly what you would expect.

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